



Position **Kawa Whakaruruhau (Cultural safety)**
statement

The purpose of this position statement is to outline key considerations relating to Cultural Safety in nursing practice.

The concept of 'partnership in practice' recognises the New Zealand commitment to biculturalism and working in partnership with Tangata Whenua Health providers supporting effective nursing practice provided to a person and their whānau from another culture, as determined by that person and their whānau. Cultural safety is about the provision of nursing care that meets the needs and is defined by the recipient of care which is the client/patient/consumer and their whānau. Culture includes age or generation; gender identity; sexual orientation; occupation and socioeconomic status; ethnic origin, immigration status and experience; religious or spiritual belief; and disability.

The Nurse providing nursing care will;

- have undertaken a process of reflection on their own cultural identity and will recognise the impact that their personal culture has on their professional practice
- have an understanding of cultural differences and have explored their own perceptions and attitudes in order to be effective in their care of and interactions with people of diverse cultures
- meet the Nursing Council of New Zealand competencies for culturally safe practice

Nurse leaders address nursing actions that are identified as being potentially unsafe cultural practice(s), or/and comprises any action that diminishes, demeans or disempowers the cultural identity and wellbeing of an individual or their whānau.

Nurse leaders ensure that cultural safety is intrinsic to service provision so as to improve equitable access to health care and the subsequent equitable health status of New Zealanders; enhances the provision of health and disability services; applies to all relationships and is broad in its application. This includes (but not limited to): supporting Māori self-determination over health; working in partnership with Māori with the mutual aim of improving health outcomes of Māori; recognising that hauora is a taonga and taking positive action to protect this.

Nurse Leader Considerations

- Each organisation should state clearly the importance of cultural safety and expectations of professional activity
- Cultural safety is an intrinsic requirement of the Professional Development and Recognition Programme, as approved by Nursing Council of New Zealand

Key Documents

Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2011). Guidelines for Cultural Safety, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori Health in Nursing Education and Practice